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EXAMINER

ZHANG, SHIRLEY X

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/775,732	Applicant(s) ALLAM ET AL.	
	Examiner SHIRLEY X. ZHANG	Art Unit 2444	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-13,15 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4, 6-10, 12-13 and 15-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

This final office action is prepared in response to the applicant's amendments and arguments filed on February 4, 2009 as a reply to the non-final office action mailed on November 4, 2008.

Claims 1-2, 4-13, and 15-16 were previously pending;

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended;

Claims 1-2, 4-13, and 15-16 are now pending;

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-10, 12-13 and 15-16 are rejected;

Claims 5 and 11 are objected;

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments and amendments filed on February 4, 2009 have been carefully considered but deemed unpersuasive in view of the following new grounds of rejection as explained herein below, necessitated by Applicant's substantial amendments to the claims which significantly affected the scope thereof, and will require further search and consideration.

Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

1. The rejection of claims 1-2, 4-13 and 15-16 under 35. U.S.C. 101 is withdrawn in view of amendments to the independent claims 1, 7 and 13 to recite

“a plurality of physical interfaces configured to receive packets to be forwarded.”

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Applicant stated that the added limitation overcomes the 101 rejection because “the physical interfaces are physical components of the routing device that are not merely implemented in software.”

Examiner’s interpretation of Applicant’s statement above is that the physical interface **comprises hardware**, making the claimed invention not software per se. The 101 rejection is withdrawn based on said interpretation by the Examiner.

If the Applicant tries to interpret the "physical interface" to comprise anything but hardware, the 101 rejection still applies to claims 1, 7 and 13 and the associated dependent claims.

2. Applicant’s arguments regarding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 focus on limitations newly added to the independent claims 1, 7 and 13.

Examiner notes that the newly added element "at least one client application" is not disclosed in the application as originally filed.

It is also unclear to the Examiner what a client application entails, e.g., whether the client application runs in the router manager, the virtual router, the kernel, or another routing device.

Therefore, Examiner interprets the client application to be a process inside the virtual router.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

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pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. **Claims 1, 7 and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The newly added element "at least one client application" is not disclosed in the application as originally filed.

It is also unclear to the Examiner what a client application entails, e.g., whether the client application runs in the router manager, the virtual router, the kernel, or another routing device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-2, 4, 6-10, 12-13 and 15-16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by IP Infusion ("Virtual Routing for Provider Edge Applications", a white paper by **IP Infusion, Inc.**), in view of Huang et al. ("The ENTRAPID Protocol Development Environment", hereinafter "**Huang**") and Haut et al ("Summary: Advantages of shared libraries", hereinafter "**Haut**").

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Regarding claim 1, IP Infusion teaches a routing device (Fig. 4 discloses a virtual router system) comprising:

an operating system kernel (IP Infusion, page 4, section “Virtual Router Design Considerations” discloses VxWorks as a possible choice of a real-time operating system);

a plurality of physical interfaces configured to receive packets to be forwarded (IP Infusion, the hardware hosting the virtual routers in Fig. 2 inherently comprises a plurality of physical interfaces in order to/from route packets to the Internet);

a plurality of virtual routers (Fig. 4 discloses a plurality of virtual routers VR1, VR 2 and VRn that are situated inside the virtual router system), wherein the plurality of virtual routers comprise a plurality of instructions for controlling a data processor to perform one or more tasks, the instructions being stored on a computer readable medium, and wherein the plurality of virtual routers are external to the operating system kernel,

wherein each virtual router further comprises:

a routing protocol stack configured to handle a plurality of routing protocols (IP Infusion, Fig. 3 and page 5, section “Virtual router system overview” disclose a virtual router supporting a plurality of routing protocols including RIP, OSPF and BGP);

a plurality of interface drivers configured to communicate with a plurality of corresponding physical interfaces (IP Infusion, page 6, column 2, paragraph 2 discloses that multiple interfaces can be assigned to a single VR, where it is well known in the art that every physical interface inherently corresponds to an interface driver);

an Internet Protocol (IP) stack configured to interact with the routing protocol stack and perform a forwarding function via the plurality of interface drivers (Fig. 3 discloses

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that the virtual router contains a TCP/IP stack that interacts with routing protocols such as RIP, OSPF and BGP on one side, and connects to a forwarding plane to perform forwarding function via the physical interfaces on the other side, as is described in page 4, column 1, paragraph 2; The forwarding plane inherently forwards packets to the physical interfaces via interface drivers.), the IP stack having a forwarding information table, information from which is used to perform the forwarding function (page 6, column 1, paragraph 3 discloses that the TCP/IP stack includes many features of a VR, such as software forwarding and management of the FIBs);

a router manager configured to manage the plurality of virtual routers (Fig. 4 discloses a Global Management Authority (GMA) that creates and manages virtual routers), wherein the router manager is configured to couple each virtual router to at least one of the physical interfaces (IP Infusion, page 5, column 2, last paragraph and page 6, Fig. 4 disclosed that the GMA configures individual routers and its coupling to the physical connections (i.e. physical interfaces) through the VR MA); and

an application, wherein the application is situated external to the plurality of virtual routers (The Global Management Authority (GMA) disclosed in Fig. 4 is a software package that performs not only router manager functions, but also other system administrative functions such as remote login, therefore it is interpreted to anticipate said application recited in the claim.), and wherein the application being configured to receive requests to perform a plurality of tasks for at least one client application (IP Infusion, page 5, column 2, last paragraph and page 6, Fig. 4, where the management authority (MA) at VR level anticipates the at least one client application recited in the claim);

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wherein the application is able to selectively communicate with one or more of the plurality of virtual routers on a dynamic basis to have the one or more virtual routers perform the plurality of tasks for at least one client application, wherein the application selects a virtual router to perform a task based upon a set of routing protocols supported by the virtual router and the task to be performed (IP Infusion, page 3, column 1 discloses that GMA is created so that global administrators can login to the router system in runtime and then selectively login to a chosen VR to execute commands; see page 6, Fig. 4 for more information).

IP Infusion does not expressly teach but Huang teaches a socket layer having a corresponding socket application programming interface, the socket layer configured to facilitate interactions between the IP stack and the routing protocol stack and the application, wherein the socket application programming interface is used to facilitate communications with the socket layer (Huang, page 4, column 1, paragraph 1 discloses that applications built using the BSD socket API can be ported immediately to a virtualized network kernel (VNK) which is a user-space IP protocol stack. Huang's disclosure implies that VNK supports a BSD socket API.)

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Huang's teaching of socket API to IP Infusion's virtual router system such that a socket layer is included to facilitate interactions between the IP stack, the routing protocol stack and the application, as is recited in the claim.

One would have been motivated to combine as such for the reason that sockets have been widely used in network programming as an inter-process communication mechanism since its introduction in the 1980s. Furthermore, the IP fusion reference states very specifically in the

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section “Defining Virtual Routing” on page 2 that “a virtual router is an emulation of a physical router at the software layer” and “Essentially many instances of router an protocol code may be running on a single unit,” which disclosure implies that the many instances of router must share the same operating system kernel when running on a single unit. IP Infusion, section “Virtual routing Requirements” on page 2 further discloses that a VR must contain its own instance of the applicable routing protocols and be fully independent from another VR. Such requirements imposed by IP fusion on its VR is met by the ENTRAPID model proposed by Huang. Therefore, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine them at the time the present invention was made.

Furthermore, IP Infusion does not explicitly teach “wherein the routing protocol stack and the IP protocol stack are implemented using dynamic libraries shared among the plurality of virtual routers.”

However, Huang teaches using software libraries to implement kernel and process virtualization, where a virtualized kernel includes a TCP/IP stack, i.e., the routing protocol stack and the IP protocol stack (Huang, page 4, “A. Kernel Virtualization” and page 5, “B. Process Virtualization”).

Meanwhile, Haut teaches the advantages of using shared libraries (i.e., dynamic libraries), wherein the advantages include needing only one copy of the dynamic library in the memory space at a time even if N tasks are running that use the library, therefore reducing the overall memory footprint of the tasks.

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One would have been motivated to combine Huang and Haut because both teaches implementing libraries and tasks in a computer system.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to integrate Haut's teaching about the advantages of dynamic libraries into Huang's implementation of virtualized kernels and processes as such that the virtualized kernels and processes are implemented as dynamic libraries. The combination yields the highly predictable and desirable results of reducing the memory usage of the many virtualized tasks in Huang, and in turn allowing a computer system to support more virtual routers than it would have otherwise been possible had the virtualized tasks been implemented as static libraries.

The combination of Huang and Haut would have also made dynamic libraries an obvious choice when IP Infusion is combined with Huang.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of IP Infusion, Huang and Haut teaches the routing device of claim 1 wherein software is used to implement the router manager (Page 5, column 2, paragraph 2 discloses that a virtual router comprises a full implementation of a physical router at the software level, which includes the router manage such as the "VR management authority" disclosed in Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of IP Infusion, Huang and Haut teaches the routing device of claim 3.

IP Infusion does not explicitly disclose that the IP stack of each of the plurality of virtual routers resides external to the operating system kernel.

However, Huang discloses a virtualized networking system that comprises an operating system kernel and a plurality of virtualized networking kernels (VNK) and processes residing external to the OS kernel (see page 3, column 2). A VNK is the result of extracting the networking portion of the FreeBSD protocol from the kernel and moving it into the user space, i.e. a VNK is an instance of the user-space IP stack (see page 5, column 1, paragraph 2). Huang further discloses that one or more virtualized processes can run on top of a VNK to implement networking protocols such routing protocols above the IP layer, as the purpose of ENTRAPID is to provide a protocol development environment (see page 4, column 1, paragraph 1 and page 8, column 1, section VII). Thus, a VNK and its corresponding virtualized processes together form a virtual router.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify IP Infusion's virtual router system with Huang's teaching such that the routing device further comprises an operating system kernel wherein the IP stack of each of the plurality of virtual routers resides external to the operating system kernel. One would have been motivated to combine as such for the desirable advantages that (1) the resulted system allows each copy of the IP stack to work independently; (2) existing user-space applications can be ported immediately to the virtual router (Huang, page 4, column 1), and (3) developers can monitor and modify any aspect of the entire protocol stack without having to make any changes to the kernel (Huang, page 3, column 2, last paragraph).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of IP Infusion, Huang and Haut teaches the routing device as recited in claim 1. IP Infusion further teaches an UNIX system incorporating the

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routing device (page 5, column 1, paragraph 1 discloses that the virtual router system is implemented on Linux, which is a UNIX operating system).

Regarding claim 7, IP Infusion teaches a routing device comprising:

an operating system kernel (page 5, column 1, paragraph 1 discloses that the virtual router is implemented on Linux, VxWorks and OSE, all of which contain an operating system kernel);

a plurality of virtual routers (IP Infusion, Fig. 3 discloses the virtual routers 1 in a virtual router system),

wherein the virtual router includes a routing protocol stack and an IP protocol stack (IP Infusion, Fig. 3 and page 5, section “Virtual router system overview” disclose a virtual router supporting a plurality of routing protocols including RIP, OSPF and BGP);

a router manager configured to manage the virtual router (Fig. 4 discloses a Global Management Authority (GMA) that creates and manages virtual routers);

an application residing external to the plurality of virtual router (The Global Management Authority (GMA) disclosed in Fig. 4 is a software package that performs not only router manager functions, but also other system administrative functions such as remote login, therefore it is interpreted to anticipate said application recited in the claim), the application being configured to receive requests to perform a plurality of tasks for at least one client application (IP Infusion, page 5, column 2, last paragraph and page 6, Fig. 4, where the management authority (MA) at VR level anticipates the at least one client application recited in the claim); and

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a plurality of physical interfaces configured to receive packets to be forwarded (Fig. 5 and page 3, column 1, paragraph 1 disclose that the routing device includes multiple physical interfaces);

wherein the application is able to selectively interact with the virtual router and the operating system kernel on a dynamic basis in order to have the virtual router and the operating system kernel perform a plurality of tasks for at least one client application, wherein the application selects a virtual router to perform a task based upon a set of routing protocols supported by the virtual router and the task to be performed (IP Infusion, page 3, column 1 discloses that GMA is created so that global administrators can login to the router system in runtime and then selectively login to a chosen VR to execute commands; see page 6, Fig. 4 for more information).

IP Infusion does not explicitly teach that the virtual router resides external to the operating system kernel.

However, Huang discloses a virtualized networking system that comprises an operating system kernel and a plurality of virtualized networking kernels (VNK) and processes residing external to the OS kernel (see page 3, column 2). A VNK is the result of extracting the networking portion of the FreeBSD protocol from the kernel and moving it into the user space, i.e. a VNK is an instance of the user-space IP stack (see page 5, column 1, paragraph 2). Huang further discloses that one or more virtualized processes can run on top of a VNK to implement networking protocols such routing protocols above the IP layer, as the purpose of ENTRAPID is to provide a protocol development environment (see page 4, column 1, paragraph 1 and page 8,

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column 1, section VII). Thus, a VNK and its corresponding virtualized processes together form a virtual router.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify IP Infusion's virtual router system with Huang's teaching so that the routing device further comprises an operating system kernel wherein the virtual routers resides external to the operating system kernel. One would have been motivated to combine as such for the desirable advantages that (1) the resulted system allows each copy of the IP stack to work independently; (2) existing user-space applications can be ported immediately to the virtual router (Huang, page 4, column 1), and (3) developers can monitor and modify any aspect of the entire protocol stack without having to make any changes to the kernel (Huang, page 3, column 2, last paragraph).

Furthermore, the IP fusion reference states very specifically in the section "Defining Virtual Routing" on page 2 that "a virtual router is an emulation of a physical router at the software layer" and "Essentially many instances of router an protocol code may be running on a single unit," which disclosure implies that the many instances of router must share the same operating system kernel when running on a single unit. IP Infusion, section "Virtual routing Requirements" on page 2 further discloses that a VR must contain its own instance of the applicable routing protocols and be fully independent from another VR. Such requirements imposed by IP fusion on its VR is met by the ENTRAPID model proposed by Huang. Therefore, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine them at the time the present invention was made.

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IP Infusion does not explicitly teach that the routing protocol stack and the IP protocol stack are implemented using dynamic libraries shared among a plurality of virtual routers.

However, Huang teaches using software libraries to implement kernel and process virtualization, where a virtualized kernel includes a TCP/IP stack, i.e., the routing protocol stack and the IP protocol stack (Huang, page 4, “A. Kernel Virtualization” and page 5, “B. Process Virtualization”).

Meanwhile, Haut teaches the advantages of using shared libraries (i.e., dynamic libraries), wherein the advantages include needing only one copy of the dynamic library in the memory space at a time even if N tasks are running that use the library, therefore reducing the overall memory footprint of the tasks.

One would have been motivated to combine Huang and Haut because both teaches implementing libraries and tasks in a computer system.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to integrate Haut’s teaching about the advantages of dynamic libraries into Huang’s implementation of virtualized kernels and processes as such that the virtualized kernels and processes are implemented as dynamic libraries. The combination yields the highly predictable and desirable results of reducing the memory usage of the many virtualized tasks in Huang, and in turn allowing a computer system to support more virtual routers than it would have otherwise been possible had the virtualized tasks been implemented as static libraries.

The combination of Huang and Haut would have also made dynamic libraries an obvious choice when IP Infusion is combined with Huang.

Regarding claim 8, the combination of IP Infusion, Huang and Haut teaches the routing device of claim 7. IP Infusion further teaches that software is used to implement the virtual router and the router manager (Page 5, column 2, paragraph 2 discloses that a virtual router comprises a full implementation of a physical router at the software level).

Regarding claim 9, the combination of IP Infusion, Huang and Haut teaches the routing device of claim 7. IP Infusion further teaches that the virtual router includes:

a routing protocol stack configured to handle a plurality of routing protocols (Fig. 3 discloses a virtual router supporting a plurality of routing protocols including RIP, OSPF and BGP);

a plurality of interface drivers configured to communicate with corresponding physical interfaces (Page 6, column 2, paragraph 2 discloses that multiple interfaces can be assigned to a single VR, where it is well known in the art that every physical interface inherently corresponds to an interface driver);

an Internet Protocol (IP) stack configured to interact with the routing protocol stack and perform a forwarding function via the plurality of interface drivers (Fig. 3 discloses that the virtual router contains a TCP/IP stack that interacts with routing protocols such as RIP, OSPF and BGP on one side, and connects to a forwarding plane to perform forwarding function via the physical interfaces on the other side, as is described in page 4, column 1, paragraph 2; The forwarding plane inherently forwards packets to the physical interfaces via interface drivers.), the IP stack having a forwarding information table, information from which is used to

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perform the forwarding function (page 6, column 1, paragraph 3 discloses that the TCP/IP stack includes many features of a VR, such as software forwarding and management of the FIBs); and

IP Infusion does not teach but Huang teaches a socket layer having a corresponding socket application programming interface, the socket layer configured to facilitate interactions between the IP stack and the routing protocol stack and the application, wherein the socket application programming interface is used to facilitate communications with the socket layer (Huang, page 4, column 1, paragraph 1 discloses that applications built using the BSD socket API can be ported immediately to a virtualized network kernel (VNK) which is a user-space IP protocol stack. Huang's disclosure implies that VNK supports a BSD socket API.)

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Huang's teaching of socket API to IP Infusion's virtual router system such that a socket layer is included to facilitate interactions between the IP stack, the routing protocol stack and the application, as is recited in the claim. One would have been motivated to combine as such for the reason that sockets have been widely used in network programming as an inter-process communication mechanism since its introduction in the 1980s.

Regarding claim 10, the combination of IP Infusion, Huang and Haut teaches the routing device of claim 9.

IP Infusion does not teach that the IP stack of the virtual router resides external to the operating system kernel.

However, as mentioned above in claim 7, Huang discloses a virtualized networking system that comprises an operating system kernel and a plurality of virtual routers residing

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external to the OS kernel (see page 3, column 2). Each virtual router comprises one VNK and a plurality of corresponding virtualized processes, where the VNK is a user-space IP stack.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify IP Infusion's virtual router system with Huang's teaching such that the IP stack of the virtual router resides external to the operating system kernel. One would have been motivated to combine as such for the desirable advantages that (1) the resulted system allows each copy of the IP stack to work independently; 2) existing user-space applications can be ported immediately to the virtual router (Huang, page 4, column 1), and (3) developers can monitor and modify any aspect of the entire protocol stack without having to make any changes to the kernel (Huang, page 3, column 2, last paragraph).

Regarding claim 12, the combination of IP Infusion, Huang and Haut teaches the routing device as recited in claim 7. IP Infusion further teaches an UNIX system incorporating the routing device (page 5, column 1, paragraph 1 discloses that the virtual router system is implemented on Linux, which is a UNIX operating system).

Regarding claim 13, IP Infusion teaches a routing device comprising a plurality of virtual routers (Fig. 4 discloses a plurality of virtual routers VR1, VR 2 and VRn that are situated inside the virtual router system),

a plurality of physical interfaces configured to receive packets to be forwarded (Fig. 5 and page 3, column 1, paragraph 1 disclose that the routing device includes multiple physical interfaces);

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wherein each virtual router includes a routing protocol stack (IP Infusion, Fig. 3 and page 5, section “Virtual router system overview” disclose a virtual router supporting a plurality of routing protocols including RIP, OSPF and BGP) and

an application residing external to the plurality of virtual routers (The Global Management Authority (GMA) disclosed in Fig. 4 is also an application situated external to the plurality of virtual routers; As the instant invention does not disclose the functions of said application, IP Infusion’s GMA is interpreted to anticipate said application recited in the claim);

wherein the application is able to selectively interact with one of the plurality of virtual routers (Page 3, column 1 discloses that GMA is created so that global administrators can login to the router system in runtime and then selectively login to a chosen VR to execute commands).

wherein the application is configured to receive requests to perform a plurality of tasks for at least one client application (IP Infusion, page 5, column 2, last paragraph and page 6, Fig. 4, where the management authority (MA) at VR level anticipates the at least one client application recited in the claim);

wherein the application is able to selectively communicate with one or more of the plurality of virtual routers on a dynamic basis to have the one or more virtual routers perform a plurality of tasks for at least one client application, wherein the application selects a virtual router to perform a task based upon a set of routing protocols supported by the virtual router and the task to be performed (IP Infusion, page 3, column 1 discloses that GMA is created so that global administrators can login to the router system in runtime and then selectively login to a chosen VR to execute commands; see page 6, Fig. 4 for more information).

IP Infusion does not explicitly disclose that each virtual router has an associated socket layer and an Internet Protocol (IP) stack, wherein the associated socket layer has a corresponding socket application programming interface configured to facilitate communications with the associated socket layer, and the associated socket layer is configured to facilitate interactions between the IP stack and the application

However, Huang discloses in page 4, column 1, paragraph 1 that applications built using the BSD socket API can be ported immediately to a virtualized network kernel (VNK) which is a user-space IP stack. Huang's disclosure implies that the VNK supports a BSD socket API, through which user space applications can communicate with the socket layer and the IP stack.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Huang's teaching of socket API to IP Infusion's virtual router system such that a socket layer and API is included to facilitate interactions between the IP stack and the application, as is recited in the claim. One would have been motivated to combine as such because sockets have been widely used in network programming as an inter-process communication mechanism since its introduction in the 1980s.

Furthermore, the IP fusion reference states very specifically in the section "Defining Virtual Routing" on page 2 that "a virtual router is an emulation of a physical router at the software layer" and "Essentially many instances of router an protocol code may be running on a single unit," which disclosure implies that the many instances of router must share the same operating system kernel when running on a single unit. IP Infusion, section "Virtual routing Requirements" on page 2 further discloses that a VR must contain its own instance of the

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applicable routing protocols and be fully independent from another VR. Such requirements imposed by IP fusion on its VR is met by the ENTRAPID model proposed by Huang. Therefore, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine them at the time the present invention was made.

IP Infusion does not explicitly teach that the routing protocol stack and the IP protocol stack are implemented using dynamic libraries shared among a plurality of virtual routers.

However, Huang teaches using software libraries to implement kernel and process virtualization, where a virtualized kernel includes a TCP/IP stack, i.e., the routing protocol stack and the IP protocol stack (Huang, page 4, “A. Kernel Virtualization” and page 5, “B. Process Virtualization”).

Meanwhile, Haut teaches the advantages of using shared libraries (i.e., dynamic libraries), wherein the advantages include needing only one copy of the dynamic library in the memory space at a time even if N tasks are running that use the library, therefore reducing the overall memory footprint of the tasks.

One would have been motivated to combine Huang and Haut because both teaches implementing libraries and tasks in a computer system.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to integrate Haut's teaching about the advantages of dynamic libraries into Huang's implementation of virtualized kernels and processes as such that the virtualized kernels and processes are implemented as dynamic libraries. The combination yields the highly predictable and desirable results of reducing the memory usage of the many virtualized tasks in Huang, and in turn allowing a computer system to

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support more virtual routers than it would have otherwise been possible had the virtualized tasks been implemented as static libraries.

The combination of Huang and Haut would have also made dynamic libraries an obvious choice when IP Infusion is combined with Huang.

Regarding claim 15, the combination of IP Infusion, Huang and Haut teaches the routing device of claim 13.

IP Infusion does not teach that the plurality of virtual routers reside external to the operating system kernel.

However, Huang discloses in page 3, column 2 a virtualized networking system that comprises an operating system kernel, and a plurality of virtualized networking kernels (VNK) and virtualized processes that reside external to the OS kernel. As is further disclosed in page 5, column 1, paragraph 2, a VNK is the result of extracting the networking portion of the FreeBSD protocol from the kernel and moving it into the user space, therefore, a VNK is an instance of the user-space IP stack.

Huang further discloses that one or more virtualized processes can run on top of a VNK to implement networking protocols such routing protocols above the IP layer (see page 4, column 1, paragraph 1 and page 8, column 1, section VII). Thus, a VNK and its corresponding virtualized processes together form a virtual router.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify IP Infusion's virtual router system with Huang's teaching such that the IP stack of the virtual router resides external to the operating system kernel. One would have been motivated to combine as such for

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the desirable advantages that (1) the resulted system allows each copy of the IP stack to work independently; (2) existing user-space applications can be ported immediately to the virtual router (Huang, page 4, column 1), and (3) developers can monitor and modify any aspect of the entire protocol stack without having to make any changes to the kernel (Huang, page 3, column 2, last paragraph).

Regarding claim 16, the combination of IP Infusion, Huang and Haut teaches the routing device as recited in claim 13. IP Infusion further teaches an UNIX system incorporating the routing device (page 5, column 1, paragraph 1 discloses that the virtual router system is implemented on Linux, which is a UNIX operating system).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. **Claims 5 and 11** objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHIRLEY X. ZHANG whose telephone number is (571)270-5012. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am - 5:30pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Shirley X. Zhang/

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Examiner, Art Unit 2444
4/8/2009

/Joseph E. Avellino/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2446